

oil was about \$23. This morning, the price of a barrel of oil is almost \$138. The policy did not work.

Then, before their policy was enacted, the average price of a gallon of gas was about \$1.46. This morning, at the Commack Mobil station in my district, the price of a gallon of regular gas is almost \$4.29, almost tripled. The policy did not work.

I am not saying that anybody is committing wrongdoing. I am just saying that people have pursued policies that have not worked.

Today we will try again to get to the President's desk Congressman BART STUPAK's anti-price gouging bill. Today we present another solution, a different idea, a better way to bring down gas prices. I urge my colleagues to support it on a bipartisan basis, I urge the other body to support it, get it to the President's desk, and let's start protecting pocketbooks rather than oil company profits.

GUANTANAMO HISTORY LESSON

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, in light of last week's Supreme Court decision giving enemy terrorist detainees at Guantanamo habeas corpus rights, I thought I would offer a brief history lesson as described by my friend Gary Bauer.

On June 13, 1942, four armed German spies came ashore on the beaches of Long Island, New York. Four days later, four more spies came ashore at Jacksonville, Florida. All were sent to sabotage American defense sites. All eight were quickly captured, tried by military tribunal, not civilian courts. Less than a month later, their cases began, and by August 4, all were convicted.

Sixty-six years later, almost to the day, the U.S. Supreme Court in a 5-4 decision declared that foreign terrorists captured on foreign soil possess more rights under our Constitution than those Nazi spies sent here to ambush our domestic defenses.

I believe history will no doubt judge that this flawed Supreme Court decision has left the United States less safe as a result.

RECORD HIGH GAS PRICES AT THE PUMP

(Mr. WALZ of Minnesota asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WALZ of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, over the last couple months, House Democrats have been working with real solutions to lower pump prices for the American people, smart legislation that invests in renewable energy and temporarily halted the sending of oil to the Strategic Petroleum Oil Reserve.

This week, we will continue with real solutions to give relief to people across

this country. We will consider legislation today to prevent price gouging by unscrupulous companies. Later in the week, we plan to take up a bill that will tighten the Enron loophole that allows speculators in the dark markets in places like Dubai to drive up oil prices without having any oversight. Rampant speculation is estimated by most economists to be driving up oil \$30 a barrel.

And on Thursday, the House will consider legislation that tells Big Oil to either use it or lose it. This bill would bar oil companies from this fictionist red herring of saying they need more land. They have 68 million acres of the public land that they are choosing not to drill on even though oil is under it. These bills deserve and need to have bipartisan support to truly help the American people.

NO MORE EXCUSES

(Mr. DAVID DAVIS of Tennessee asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DAVID DAVIS of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I stand to talk to the American people today. The American people are hurting. Young families are hurting, senior adults are hurting, those that are on fixed incomes are hurting, small businesses are hurting, all because we don't have an energy policy that actually includes energy. Let me tell you about one such person.

Over the weekend I met with a young family. The gentleman's name was Vern Long from Jefferson City, Tennessee. Vern told me he makes \$8 an hour. He has to drive to work to Knoxville, Tennessee. It costs him \$90 a week to drive to work. Vern told me that he may not be able to continue working; he may have to go on welfare, because we don't have an energy policy that has American energy.

This has to stop. It is time for no more excuses. Vern doesn't want to go on welfare. Vern is a United States veteran. He spent time in Iraq. We owe people like Vern Long a better future for he and his family. We need an energy policy that uses American energy now.

No more excuses. It is time for us to pass a policy where we drill for American oil, natural gas, and use clean coal technology. The time is now. No more excuses.

BIG OIL DOES NOT NEED MORE LAND TO LEASE TO DRILL DOMESTICALLY—THEY SHOULD USE IT OR LOSE IT

(Mr. HALL of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HALL of New York. Mr. Speaker, American families and businesses are indeed reeling from record gas prices, the results of 7 years of missed opportunities and a 19th century energy policy this White House has allowed oil

companies to write. President Bush's policy is only working for one group, the oil companies themselves.

Rather than looking for new solutions, Washington Republicans say that Big Oil needs access to more land and more water so they can drill for more oil. What my friends across the aisle refuse to acknowledge is that 68 million acres of oil reserves on 10,000 separate leases are already acquired by the oil companies for development and are ready for the drill bit to go into the ground. Permitting has been finished, and the oil companies are holding off.

Why are they holding off drilling on these 68 million acres of reserves? If they are really interested in drilling more at home, let's have them do that first before we give them access to the Alaskan Wildlife Refuge or our Atlantic and Pacific coasts. All they need to do is drill is on these 68 million acres they have already acquired. If they don't, I believe they should use it or lose it.

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HIGH GAS PRICES ROUND II

(Mr. ROGERS of Alabama asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to drive home the fact that the U.S. needs an energy policy now.

In my home State of Alabama, gas prices have risen over 10 cents a gallon in the last 2 weeks. This just can't continue. Not only does this affect how much folks can afford to drive, but it also raises the prices on everyday necessities like food and clothing. Congress needs to act now.

Increased domestic energy exploration is part of the solution, but Congress also must invest heavily in home-grown biofuels and bioenergy.

Imagine pulling up to the service stations of the future, and you can see all sorts of fuels—hydrogen, natural gas, ethanol, and biodiesel. But we won't get there without strong support from Congress now. The same holds true for initiatives like solar and wind power. No one fuel will power our future, but we all know that Congress must do whatever it takes to help get us there now.

So let's act now to make our country energy independent. Let's pass a bill to open ANWR and the Outer Continental Shelf, and let's invest heavily in alternative fuels and new technology to increase efficiency and conservation.

TROOPS AND VETERANS FIRST IN GI BILL

(Mr. ALTMIRE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ALTMIRE. Mr. Speaker, last weekend marked the 64th anniversary of the signing of the original GI bill by President Franklin Roosevelt, which